THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been some delay in finalising the matter as the Bill had to be redrafted in light of certain amendments suggested by the Selected Committee of Delhi Legislative Assembly to which it had been referred for consideration.

North-East Economic Packages

1545. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages for economic development of the region; and

(b) what has been the fate of the earlier packages announced by UF Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The salient features of Government's North-Eastern packages include, inter-alia, setting up a Commission for determination of gaps in infrastructure and Basic Minimum services in the North Eastern Region; pricniy for creation of employment opportunities for the educated unemployed and setting up a High Level Committee on educated unemployed; full funding for on-going projects; Comprehensive Water Management and Flood Control Measures; full coverage through Employment Assurance Schemes and expansion of Border area Roads to cover Indo-Mynamar Border; allocation pf 10% of budget by Central Ministries for specific programmes in North East; improvement in credit flows; formulation of new Industrial Policy; development of tourism; improvement in railway infrastructure and measures for control of Narcotics & AIDS.

(b) The earlier package continues.

Suicide Attempt by Railway employee

1546. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway employee from Bihar set himself ablaze on the road outsides P.M's official residence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Shri Brij Mohan r/o district Darbhanga, Bihar visited 7, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi on 5.5.98 to meet the Prime Minister and was given access after due checks. As the Prime Minister's meeting with the public on that day had been called off in advance, all persons who had assembled were met by the personal staff of P.M. after which all of them includiang Shri Brij Mohan left. However, Shri Brij Mohan seems to have returned to Safdarjung Road after some time and set himself ablaze in front of House No. 1, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi. He was immediately removed to Sadarjung Hospital where he succumed to burn injuries the same day.

Pension for Freedom fighters in Meghalaya

1547. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-items appearing in the Indian Express, dated the 18th April, 1998 under the Caption "Freedom fighters still await pension in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The news-item under reference relates to the pension given to the freedom